



Alexandria, Virginia.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13.

There seems to be some reason to hope for a revival of the ship building industry of the United States. It is hoped that the ship yards on the Potomac will soon feel the benefit of the revival of this branch of enterprise. The Boston Globe, of a recent date, claims that there is an actual revival of this important interest throughout the New England States. In Massachusetts, the ship yards of Newburyport, Quincy, Chelsea and East Boston are turning out first-class ships. But Maine leads in this industry. Her shipping, built last year, amounted to 122,548 tons, an increase of 32,720 tons over the year 1873. The value of this tonnage was about \$7,500,000. The current year will reach about the same figures. It is also stated that wooden vessels are now built as cheap in the United States, as in the Dominion of Canada, while the builders of iron steamships claim that they are prepared to turn out first class ships, of superior quality, as cheap as they can be constructed in any other portion of the world. Let us then have a tonnage equal to the wants of our foreign commerce, our international mail service, and our immigration.

A plan for the reorganization of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad has been devised. It is proposed to obtain a decree for the sale of the property as early as practicable, under both the six per cent. and seven per cent. mortgages, so that the purchasers may acquire a perfect and satisfactory title to the entire property, franchises, and corporate rights of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company, subject only to the liens of the Virginia Central bonds (to be provided for by a renewal or extension of these mortgages, or otherwise, as circumstances may require), and that it be purchased, on behalf of the bondholders and creditors, who shall unite in the plan, by a suitable committee or trustees, to be hereafter selected by them.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Times says that one of the first movements of the Republican minority in the House will be the offering of some resolutions which will require a direct, unequivocal declaration from every member of the body upon the proposition to re-establish a currency of gold and silver and paper convertible into gold at par. The minority are likely to accept the recommendations of Secretary Bristow as the basis of their attempts for legislation on the subject during this session.

It is understood that a proposition will be made at the Grand Lodge of Virginia, which commences its annual session at Richmond, next Monday night, looking to the holding of a World's Congress of Master Masons, at Philadelphia, during the Centennial exercises of next year. Such an occasion would be full of interest to all Masons. A Congress of the United States was held in New York, many years ago, but nothing on so grand and extensive a scale as this now proposed has ever before been attempted.

By the new Constitution of Alabama slavery and secession are put out of sight, so far as they can be by law; suffrage is given unrestrictedly to all male citizens, without regard to color or race; the Legislature can meet only once in two years; sectarian appropriations are forbidden; and all members of the Legislature and State officers are forbidden to accept free passes on the railroads or other methods of transportation. Separate schools are provided for colored children.

The Boston Congregationalist, also, has been shocked by the long-drawn-out obsequies of Henry Wilson. "When," it asks, "shall we have such a reform of our present barbarous funeral customs as will protect the bodies of the dead from the indignities of public honors and grant them a speedy, quiet and reposeful passage from the chamber of death to the grave?"

Mr. Spurgeon has come out strongly against excluding religion from the National schools. He calls it making infidelity the National religion, and he prefers even the Church of England to having Bradlaugh for Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Republican National Committee will meet in Washington January 13 to arrange for the meeting of the Republican Convention to nominate candidates for President and Vice-President.

DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN LUNATIC ASYLUM.—The Governor on Saturday appointed the following Board of Directors of the Western Lunatic Asylum: A. M. Fauquier, Joseph A. Waddell, Colonel R. H. Catlett, Judge John H. McCue, Colonel Asher W. Harman, Stanton; Dr. Thomas W. Shelton, Fisherville; Dr. S. H. Moffett, Harrisonburg; C. W. Patton, Lynchburg; James P. Reilly, Winchester; William Crawford, Fort Defiance, Augusta county; Dr. Robert S. Beazley, Standardsville. The retiring board was composed of the following gentlemen: William A. Burke, A. W. Harman, W. H. H. Lynn, J. B. Lightner, R. S. Harbesberger, Dr. S. H. Moffett, W. T. Pogue, C. D. Fishburne, James P. Reilly.

Mark Twain, having been invited to contribute something to an infant asylum, offered to be one of 1,000 citizens "who shall agree to contribute two or more of their children to this enterprise."

The fine farm of "Clifton," lying a few miles west of Warrenton was sold at private sale Tuesday by Thomas Green, of Washington, to Geo. B. Cochran, of Fauquier, for \$15,000 cash—the equivalent of \$33 per acre.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Richmond Christian Advocate is opposed to taxing church property which is used for church purposes.

"He was one of our most energetic trustees," says a village paper in an obituary notice, "and we trustees happy."

Radical papers are printing third-term editorials and Government advertisements in about equal proportions now.

When Bishops commence to do the work of politicians, politicians will soon begin to do the work of Bishops.

Bishop Haven thinks that the country would be benefited by the re-election of Grant. We are sure there is one Republican who will not agree with him, and that Republican is—Mr. Blaine.

Some, at least, of the Richmond clergymen were wide awake enough to keep out of the trap which the Richmond reporters set, last week, to catch the ministers and make them fill up the newspaper columns.

"Let no guilty man escape," was Grant's catch phrase for the public ear. Henderson caught Babcock. "Such a result never was intended," says Grant, "therefore dismiss Henderson from the case at once."

Dickens and Thackeray were walking in Covent Market one day, when they came to a place where there were two piles of oysters in a window, one pile being marked ninepence a dozen, and the other sixpence a dozen. Thackeray stood with his hands behind him and said to Dickens: "How they must hate each other."

In the Conservative caucus for U. S. Senator on the 6th ballot Messrs. Sinclair, Fowle and Simpson voted for Gov. Smith, and Mr. Claughton for Senator Johnston. On the seventh ballot Claughton, Fowle and Simpson voted for Johnston and Sinclair for Stuart. On the 14th ballot Messrs. Sinclair, Claughton, Fowle and Simpson voted for Gov. Smith.

LEGISLATIVE.

In the Senate, on Saturday, the following bills were passed:

A bill to amend the second section of the act entitled an act, to incorporate the Warm Springs Company.

A bill abolishing the office of Treasurer of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum.

A bill prohibiting the appropriation of a greater sum than \$3000 in any one year for the purchase of books, works of art, &c., for the State Library.

Mr. Herndon, by leave, presented a bill, authorizing the town of Fredericksburg to issue bonds to redeem the ante-war debt, which was read the second time and referred.

In the House, the following bills were presented and referred:

A bill to suppress gambling.

A bill for a uniform system of weights and measures for agricultural products.

A bill charging the expenses in criminal proceedings to respective cities and counties.

The following bills were passed:

House bill to amend section 2 of chapter 171, Code 1873, as amended by an act approved March 29, 1875, in reference to commission in chancery.

House bill prescribing terms for holding courts in the first judicial district.

House bill to amend 6th and 8th sections of an act to establish a separate court in the town of Fredericksburg.

Mr. Doyle offered rules to govern the General Assembly in the election of United States Senator, which was agreed to.

A bill for the establishment of an Agricultural and Geological Bureau.

A number of resolutions proposing all sorts of legislation on all sorts of subjects, were read and referred.

A bill was ordered to be engrossed allowing maimed Virginia soldiers commutation for limbs lost in the late war.

RAILROAD AFFAIRS.

An important change in the running of the through trains between Washington and New York via the Baltimore and Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroads will go into effect to-day. Since the settlement of the railroad war there have been four trains run each way, those from Washington starting from the depots of the two roads in that city and Baltimore at the same time. On reaching Bayview Junction, a few miles outside the city limits, the cars of each Company were combined into one train, and thus mixed proceeded to New York. Trains from the latter city for Baltimore and Washington divided at Bayview Junction, the cars of the Pennsylvania Company proceeding on via the Union and Baltimore and Potomac roads, and those of the Baltimore and Ohio via the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore and the Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio. Of course this arrangement was the cause of inconvenience and delay to the passengers, and was by no means a popular one. One portion of the mixed train would frequently have to wait at Bayview, and then it would take about fifteen minutes besides to effect the combination. It was also a source of trouble to the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, which was compelled to forward more cars than formerly at the same compensation. In fact nobody liked it, the Baltimore and Ohio and Pennsylvania Companies agreeing to it only as a sort of compromise, in lieu of the practice that prevailed before the war, when each had its own trains. Negotiations have been going on for several weeks to bring about a more satisfactory state of affairs. Conferences of railroad officials with regard to it were held in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, those taking part in them being Vice-President King and Master of Transportation Sharp, on part of the Baltimore and Ohio; Vice-President Cassatt, for the Pennsylvania; General Superintendent Thompson, for the Baltimore and Potomac; and General Superintendent Kenney, of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad. The last conference was held in Baltimore a few days ago, when the desired change was fully consummated.

On and after to-day the Baltimore and Ohio will have one solid train each way between Washington and New York; that is to say, the train will run through without stoppage at Bayview. The train from Washington is the first that leaves there for New York, the hour of its departure being 8 a. m. It starts from the President-street depot of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Road, at 9:25 a. m. The solid Baltimore and Ohio train from New York leaves there at 8:35 a. m., and Baltimore at 4:10 p. m. To each of these trains a parlor car will be attached. The solid train of the Pennsylvania Company will be the "Limited Express," consisting of parlor cars, and will leave Washington at 9:25 a. m., and Baltimore at 9:30 a. m., and Baltimore at 2:55 p. m. In addition to these trains there will also be run each way two mixed trains, or those in which the cars of both companies combine at Bayview Junction.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the Times."

The breach in the direct cable has not yet been repaired.

Navigation on the Delaware and Lehigh canal closed Saturday.

There are twice as many widows as widowers in Michigan—32,674 to 15,636.

Gen. Forrest, of Fort Pillow notoriety, joined the Presbyterian Church at Memphis last week.

The number of hogs slaughtered at Cincinnati this season is \$239,374, against 253,043 during the same period last year.

Ex-Treasurer Mann has suddenly disappeared from Ballston, New York, and it is thought he has fled.

It is stated that Miss Black, the only daughter of Byron's "Maid of Athens," is left destitute by the death of her mother.

Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale, a literary lady of the old school, now claims that she is the original author of "Mary had a little Lamb."

The Chicago and Northwestern, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, and the Illinois Central railroads have agreed to increase freight rates to all points in Iowa.

The monitors Passaic, Nantucket, and Wyandotte arrived at Norfolk Saturday, in tow of the United States steamers Talapoosa, Dispatch, Alert, and Huron.

Gen. Babcock gave bail at Chicago on Saturday in the sum of \$7,000 for his appearance at St. Louis in connection with the crooked whiskey frauds.

Mr. Henry Camp, Plymouth Church's choir leader, has been subpoenaed in the St. Louis whiskey frauds. Now who would have thought it?

A trial of a new gun similar in some respects to the Gatling gun, but more destructive in its character, will be made at the Washington navy yard in a few days.

The new workhouse at Wheeling is already receiving customers. All vagrants and beggars are lodged in it and set to work to earn their meals and lodging.

Several French prelates are advocating the claims to canonization of Queen Mary Antoinette. The Vatican, however, is at present not favorable to the idea.

The Fairhaven engine house and two locomotives of the Southern Central railroad were destroyed by fire yesterday at Auburn, New York. Loss \$25,000.

Great excitement exists among the telegraph operators over a reduction of wages which is said to have been ordered by the Western Union Company, to go into effect January 1.

Captain Peter Steelman, of the schooner Isle of Pines, was struck on the head by Arthur Randall, a colored sailor, at Hampton Roads, on Saturday, while getting the vessel under way, and died at 4 p. m.

Mrs. A. M. Wood, widow of General R. C. Wood, United States army, and daughter of the late President Zachary Taylor, died at Freiburg, Baden, Germany, on the 2d instant, in the sixty-fifth year of her age.

Tilton's lecture success in the West is astonishing, and surpasses his own greatest expectations. At Keokuk, which has but a small hall, the audience began to gather in the street at 5 o'clock, the lecture not beginning till 8. He seems to be figuring in a veritable "Golden Legend," which his distinguished rival is still acting in the "School for Scandal."

District Attorney Dyer has appointed Col. James Q. Broadhead, one of the leading lawyers of the St. Louis bar, to fill the position made vacant by the dismissal of Mr. Henderson, and he has accepted, and will proceed in the whiskey ring prosecutions, in conjunction with District Attorney Dyer, Assistant Attorney Bliss, and Lucien Eaton.

The widow of the late Commodore Winslow, the gallant commander of the famous war steamer Kearsarge, which sunk the privateer Alabama, wishing to erect a monument to her husband, lately obtained, at great expense, an immense boulder of granite, weighing four tons, from the summit of Mount Kearsarge, to place over his grave.

Mr. James R. Fisher, of Richmond, who has been appointed messenger in the House Post Office, at present holds the position of clerk of the penitentiary. He will resign his clerkship, and that coming to the knowledge of the host of impetuous, the members of the Board of Directors have been beset by applicants and will have no peace until they elect Mr. Fisher's successor. The place is worth about \$800 per annum.

Dennis Williams, a yellow man, was indicted by the grand jury of the County Court of Prince William, and tried on Monday last, on a charge of robbing Taseo Harris, a colored captain of a boat on the Potomac river, upon which he was employed as a hand, in November, of \$90. The jury found him guilty, and ascertained his punishment to be five years in the penitentiary.

Mr. Charles E. Nicol on Tuesday moved for a new trial on the plea of newly discovered evidence in his favor, and the motion was granted, and trial set for the next term of the County Court.

A MERRY MEETING.—The opening proceedings of the Conservative caucus at Richmond, last week, seem to have been marvellously funny. We clip from the Equivocalist's report.

To sober second thought it does not look well.

A motion to proceed to make nominations having been agreed to, Mr. Bagwell said he took pleasure in nominating ex-Governor Fayette McMullan. The name of the ex-Governor was greeted with shouts of applause and laughter.

Mr. Critz said he was not backward in bringing forward his favorite; he meant to trot his nag out and start right into the race. Mr. W. R. Winn, he said, was the man for the place, and he hoped he would receive almost a unanimous vote. Amid the general merriment that followed this announcement, solemnly made by Mr. Critz, Mr. Popham, who appreciated a joke, and is always ready to furnish his share of fun, turned the joke upon Mr. Critz by nominating him, "the Patrick Henry of Patrick," for the high and responsible office of United States Senator.

Mr. Critz (good naturedly) demurred to the proposition to "trot him out," but his friend Mr. Popham would not permit him to decline the honor.

Everybody cried, "Call the roll, call the roll!" and Col. Swann, the secretary, slowly called over the names of Senators. Only five, however, chose to express a preference. Senators Penn and Ward voted for Critz, Senators C. T. Smith and Wood for McMullan, and Senator Quesenberry for Winn.

As the secretary was about to commence the roll of the House Senator Herndon rose and solemnly moved that the further calling of the roll be dispensed with and that silence be maintained for ten minutes in order to give the members an opportunity for meditation. [General laughter.]

The chairman ruled the motion out of order, and the clerk called the roll of the House.

Upon summing up the total vote it was found that Critz had received two votes, Winn four, and McMullan four.

As Mr. Critz had received more votes than both of his competitors, Mr. Neely moved that his nomination unanimous, which was ruled out of order, and on motion the conference adjourned until 7 o'clock p. m.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

The Senatorial Contest—How it Stands—Who are Weakening—The Luckiest Governor of Virginia—Daniel and Hunter—The Too Contrasted—Too Young and Too Old—The Alexandria Delegates—A Good Bell—Causing Affair—The Centennial.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, Dec. 11, 1875.

The Senatorial contest was perhaps a little warmer to-day—in fact looked a little more like business. It also gave indications of the strength of some of the prominent candidates' creed and insight into the tactics of their supporters.

Goode has displayed all his strength, and from the first has gained but few votes. I think his standard-bearers are beginning to see this and are troubled. Johnston holds his own well and is making some progress, although slowly yet surely, and his friends still predict his nomination. Indeed I think just now he is really in the van in this rush for Senatorial honors.

Ex-Governor Smith is now considered entirely out of the field, but I cannot bring myself to acknowledge this. Extra Billy was always a lucky man. Whenever any other man would have failed, he has succeeded.

If I were asked to point out the luckiest native-born Governor of Virginia, I would single out this old gentleman. Of course I do not include ex-Governor Gilbert C. Walker because he is a New Yorker, and the Richmond Equivocalist has translated Gilbert as meaning "good as gold," and he may succeed yet, although his friends prefer his being Governor again before he goes to the Senate. But of the native Virginia Governors, Smith is the lucky man. Unlike Mr. Macawber, he has waited successfully for something to "turn up," and his desponding friends should bear this in mind and recollect that this is Extra Billy Smith now in the field, and not one of your ordinary Smiths, Joneses or Browns.

Daniel's friends are still holding him in reserve, which is a wise measure on their part, and may be attended with good results. He is gaining supporters every day.

The nomination may not be made by Tuesday, although I think a majority of the members are getting tired of filibustering.

I heard to-day, for the first time during the contest, the name of Hon. R. M. T. Hunter mentioned, but the very man who contended that John W. Daniel is too young, aver that Hunter is too old. That a man who from boyhood has delighted to honor and serve his native State, and whose only reward has been the consciousness of having done his duty; that such a man, who, broken down in fortune but not in spirit, can be thrust aside as too old, is to me preposterous. And again, that a man now over thirty, who has been in almost as many battles as he can number years; who has prepared works on the laws of the country of which snow-haired judges speak almost with reverence; that such a man whose ability and intellect are alike gigantic; that such a man should be too young, is equally untenable. There is a wonderful similarity in the characters of these two statesmen, although at first they appear totally different. Both may in one sense be called "slow" men. Hunter will work to accomplish a result, and although he will not move rapidly, yet his progress will be apparent. It is not while he is working to accomplish such results that he is seen to advantage, but after they are accomplished the observer is struck with their grandeur and beauty, and wonders why he did not see them sooner. Daniel, in working out the same task, would take equally as long as Hunter, but, on the other hand, would be seen to advantage while at work, and the beholder be dazzled by the brilliancy of the man, which, like a meteor, would flash seemingly for a short time before his eyes and leave him astonished at its beauty and anxious to see it again. Daniel's movements are made like his own charge at Gettysburg, "while the world wondered." Hunter's are made like his conference with Abraham Lincoln, almost tiresome at the time, but to-day it is said "had Hunter's advice on this occasion been carried out, the South would be in a better condition to-day."

In short, Daniel is seen to most advantage while at work—Hunter after the work is over. Both are (considering the difference in age) equally able; both have the same contempt for party artificialities, and both are equally popular; both are modest and retiring, and are pushed before the public in preference to thrusting themselves forward; both are ardent and untiring students, and both have the same friends. I have heard a dozen men say, "If I cannot get Daniel, I will take Hunter," and as many on the other side say, "If I cannot get Daniel, I will take Hunter"—which shows that both men are made of the same metal. Your correspondent is like the parties mentioned—if he cannot get Daniel, he will take Hunter, and if he cannot get Hunter, he will take Daniel; but for heaven's sake give him one or the other!

Mr. Simpson, the able representative from Alexandria, to-day presented in the House a bill for a uniform system of weights and measures for agricultural products. In truth, Alexandria has been fortunate in the selection of her delegates. They are not the gushy kind, but belong to the working order, and are the sort needed. In personal appearance they prove incontrovertibly that Alexandria can boast not only of her beautiful women, but handsome men.

That gentleman of the old school, and able journalist, Col. Alfred P. Bonnet, was presented to-day, by the Equivocalist printers, with a handsome gold-headed cane—an evidence of their high appreciation of him. He retires from the Equivocalist to-day, and will take his position on the Whig Monday.

The State Centennial Commissioners met to-day and held a long conference. They adopted a memorial asking legislative aid. The Committee on Finance, I think, would be willing to give them what they ask, but I do not think that the House will sanction such a measure. They will want an appropriation of at least ten thousand dollars.

STROMGROW.

CHURCH AND STATE.

VIEWS OF THE RICHMOND CLERGY.

The Richmond clergy have been interviewed for the purpose of ascertaining their opinions in regard to President Grant's recommendations to tax church property, &c. The following is a synopsis:

Reporter: I presume, Bishop, that you have given Grant's message?

Bishop Gibbons: I have read the document carefully.

Reporter: What is your opinion, Bishop, of the school question which has of late agitated the country?

Bishop: I think that the constitutional amendment regarding the school question proposed by President Grant if carried out would reduce our American republic to the condition of things which formerly existed in Pagan Rome. In the old Roman empire the individual was absorbed by the State. The citizen was looked upon only as a part and parcel of the vast machinery called the State. I think that the general government has no more right to dictate to the father when and where and how he must educate his child than it has to prescribe the quality of his food or the shape of his clothing. I think it would be injurious to the autonomy of the States if the education of the masses were controlled by the Federal government. This would necessitate the creation of another bureau. We have quite enough already. If popular education is wrested from the family and

the State and placed in the hands of the general government, it would give the ruling administration, whatever may be its political creed, an overwhelming patronage, which would destroy all balance of power and reduce the minority to a mere cypher.

President Grant proposes, as you have read, to tax church property: what do you think, Bishop, of that proposition?

My opinion is that if church property is taxed a premium is put on infidelity and religion is made odious and burdensome, because a penalty is imposed upon such as support the churches. As a general rule our heaviest and most numerous tax payers are church members. It would be exceedingly hard upon them, besides the taxation for the erection and maintenance of churches which bring them no revenue, and which redound to the progress of civilization and humanity.

What do you think, Bishop, would be the result of such taxation?

The inevitable result, in my judgment, of such taxation would be to cripple the churches and increase the burden of the State by compelling it to become the almoner of the poor who are now cheerfully supported by private munificence. Hence, as a measure, both of religion and enlightenment, interest, I think that the taxation of churches and of benevolent institutions is to be deprecated.

What religious denomination do you believe would suffer most?

Throughout the United States the Catholics, forming about one-seventh of the entire population and possessing about one-seventh of the property, would suffer in the same proportion; but in Virginia the pressure would be felt more severely, perhaps by the Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Baptist denominations.

Rev. Mr. Dashiell was found at his church attending choir practice. The following conversation took place:

Reporter: Have you read President Grant's message?

Mr. Dashiell: Yes, sir, I have.

What is your opinion, Mr. Dashiell, in regard to the school question?

I think that the introduction of the Bible question in connection with public schools ought to have been avoided if possible. But now that the issue has been made, I think that Protestants, Catholics and Jews should make it their object to have the question settled in the kindest way and in a manner that would be satisfactory to all. It strikes me that the course pursued by our public school authorities herein to us, and I think their example might well be imitated elsewhere.

What is your opinion in regard to the President's proposition to tax church property?

In the main I am inclined to agree with him. If I would disagree with him at all, it is that I would not, under any circumstances, have taxes laid upon a church edifice or upon church property used for purely benevolent purposes. Very expensive churches, costing a million of dollars or more, might appear to some persons proper objects of taxation, but as all these sanctuaries are held to be devoted to the worship and service of Almighty God, I would not have church buildings always exempt, whether they are little or much. Property which is really a source of revenue to a diocese or a congregation, ought to bear its burden of taxation. I should dislike very much to see a tax laid upon such church property as St. Paul's, in this city, or St. Joseph's Asylum, which like church edifices are benevolent institutions; but it seems to me as not so objectionable in the case of real estate or any other investments which may directly or indirectly be a source of income to any ecclesiastical body.

What denomination, Mr. Dashiell, do you think would suffer most from taxation?

I suppose that the Roman Catholics would have the heaviest assessments to meet in the country at large. But in Virginia, particularly in the rural districts, it would be very hard upon the Methodists and the Episcopalians if the law should be made to apply to parsonages.

Rev. Dr. John E. Edwards made the following statement: I do not hesitate to say that I regard Bishop Haven as a nuisance. His views on church property, as expressed by the President, are a source of great church with which he is officially connected. If I believed that his views, as expressed in the joint meeting of the Methodist preachers and the Methodist Sunday-school union, and as reported in the Boston papers, really represented the sentiments of the Methodist Episcopal Church North, so far from favoring any approximation to an organic union between the Southern and the Northern churches, I should deprecate fraternization itself as a calamity, and as involving a shameful compromise of Southern Methodism. "The line of policy recommended by President Grant in relation to the taxation of church property would prove as disastrous to religion and good morals as the thing is unjust and iniquitous in itself. There are two sides to this question, but one of which seems to have been considered by the President. Church property does receive the protection of the government, but church property pays that to the government which is infinitely more valuable than the dollars and cents it would pay in taxes. Taxation of church property would cripple the church in its benevolent enterprises to an extent that would be felt as a fearful recoil on the government itself."

Rev. Dr. C. C. Bittling, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, said: I earnestly approve of such constitutional amendments by the Federal and State, as will effectually and finally prohibit appropriations, direct or indirect, from any public treasury—Federal, State, county, municipal or other, in aid of any sectarian institutions or schools whatever. Our public schools must be maintained at all hazards, and kept from becoming scenes of partisan strife or sectarian controversies. The State should be kept free from all complications with proselyting establishments, and those who choose to sustain these latter should be required to do so wholly at their own cost. All property, except the property of the State, should be exempted from any burden of taxation, and exclusively used for the benefit of the worship, should bear its due share of the public expenses. Sooner or later, it will be required as a necessity in this country as in Australia, Italy, France, Germany and some other countries. The secularization of ecclesiastical property by the State has always demonstrated itself as dangerous to the liberties of the people and a source of both religious and political corruption. There may be many specious pleas for State patronage, but sound principles oppose all discriminations or assistance by the State to religious propaganda. Protected by the State in peaceful privileges of religion we ought not to desire exemption from all cost of government."

Rev. S. A. Steele, the new pastor of Broad Street Methodist church, said:

"The conduct of Bishop Haven ought to bring the blush to the cheek of every Northern Methodist. What business has Bishop Haven, or any other Bishop, intermeddling with the political issues of the day? If this precedent is to be followed, where will be the constitutional rights and liberties of our people? Bishop Haven's conduct would be less offensive, did he not represent a church which controls nearly a million of voters. It will evoke a resolve that unquestionably slumbers in the bosoms of millions of our countrymen, to preserve the sacredness of this country from ecclesiastical domination."

WOODLAWN FARMERS' CLUB.

[Reported for the Alexandria Gazette.]

The regular monthly meeting of the Woodlawn Farmers' club was held at the house of Charles Baling, near Collingwood, on Saturday last. Notwithstanding the almost impassable condition of the roads, consequent from the recent protracted rainy weather, there was a large attendance of the members.

The principal topic of discussion was the "ways and means" of maintaining and keeping in good order our public wagon roads; and the interest manifested by all present in the important matter strongly encouraged the belief that there is a determination on the part of the enterprising farmers of old Fairfax to make their thoroughfares easy of travel and fully commensurate to their increased and increasing needs as a progressive agricultural community.

A special road bill for the county of Fairfax, which had been prepared by a previously appointed committee, was carefully considered, and after some amendments, unanimously adopted, and recommended for enactment by the Legislature.

Mr. Pierson, our delegate, and an active member of the club, took charge of the bill, and will present it an early day.

Under the old general road law of Virginia there was but little concert of action in regard

to repairs of roads, and what little of the public money was so appropriated was expended without system, and with but little permanent good. What is now aimed at by the projectors of this movement is to so systematize the plan of operations in road repairs, and to regulate the expenditure of all the moneys for that purpose, from whatever source derived, that every district in the county shall receive its full and equal share of the accruing advantages. Certainly there is no improvement which more surely indicates to the traveler that a people are alive and imbued with the good-spirited spirit of the age than the important one under consideration. To strangers looking for new homes it is one of primary significance, for good roads make labor economical and cheapen the transportation of all kinds of marketable products.

Some of your readers may desire to know what manner of institution this "farmers' club" of which I have been speaking is, especially when it presumes to take hold of the matter of public roads. Well, it is simply an association of farmers, who meet together monthly at each other's homes alternately, to discuss all topics in the range of general agriculture and horticulture. Essays are read